

**CONFIDENTIAL**

COUNTRY Polish-occupied Germany SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT

TOPIC Soviet and Polish Troops in Breslau 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 29 January 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1

REMARKS 25X1

25X1 1. The western section of the former Hindenburg Kaserne in Breslau (P 52/C 41) was occupied by Soviet soldiers. A barracks building on ul. Soltysowicka and two stables or garages were gutted by fire. Ul. Koszarowa running past the main wing of the installation on the south was blocked by one barrier each on the east and west. The Soviet sentries there wore red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport and signal insignia. Many trucks and sedans were observed approaching the installation from the south. 25X1

2. Construction work on the barracks buildings on the south side of ul Kielcowska, in the Psie Pole, formerly Hundsfield borough, was done by Polish nationalized construction firms and supervised by Soviet soldiers who wore black-bordered red epaulets. (2)

3. The Soviet military office on ul Koszarowa was guarded by sentries who wore red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia. Numerous Soviet officers, wearing caps with a green band, were seen near this office

4. A parking lot was located north of the Soviet workshops on ul. Kaminskiego, the road which leads to Pohlanowitz (P 52/C 42). 25X1

25X1 Some motor vehicles were parked there but not in the correct places. German workers were employed in the Soviet workshops and were quartered in the houses across the street from the workshops. A Soviet office was located in a three-story building just south of the railroad line on the east side of ul. Kaminskiego. Soldiers observed there wore red-bordered black epaulets and the same branch-of-service insignia as those seen in the former Hindenburg Kaserne. (3)

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5. The former German barracks installation on the south side of ul. Zwycieska, in the southwestern part of the city, quartered Soviet troops. The Soviet sentries and some soldiers seen near the barracks gates wore red-bordered black epaulets and, on their left sleeve, a rhombic badge mounting two crossed golden gun barrels on red-bordered black background. A three-axle rocket launcher with an angular front mudguard was observed leaving the installation. The guide rails were covered by tarpaulins. The motor vehicle number and the same insignia which the soldiers wore on their sleeves were painted in white on the doors of the drivers' cabs. About 15 more rocket launchers of the same type were seen in the billeting area. Other artillery pieces were housed in the long shed on the south side of ul. Zwycieska. In addition to the rocket launchers, trucks and sedans, as well as motor vehicle repair facilities were seen in the barracks yard. [REDACTED]

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6. The southeastern portion of the Soviet-occupied area located on the southwest side of the street connecting the Klecina and Oporowo boroughs, quartered Soviet soldiers. These soldiers and the sentry at the entrance wore red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia. [REDACTED] b. The northwestern portion of this area was occupied by soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets and the sentry at the gate wore the same service color. The middle portion of this area contained about 40 low wooden temporary buildings, presumably used as warehouses. (5)

25X1

7. The former German Pionier Kaserne in the Kozanow borough was occupied by Soviet troops. No activity was observed in the barracks yard during a three-hour period of observation in the morning and evening of one day. Soldiers were seen through the open windows of the barracks buildings and Russian songs were heard. Some soldiers near the entrance and the sentry wore red-bordered black epaulets and some of the soldiers wore signal insignia. ZIS trucks [REDACTED] were parked between the two barracks buildings at the gate. Just north of this barracks installation were large workshops from which sounds of activity could be heard. [REDACTED] underground installations, where ammunition was loaded, were located here. (6)

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8. The Polish sentries at the Polish supply depot in the Karlowitz borough wore steel-gray uniforms like those of the Polish tank troops who were observed constructing the barracks buildings north of the former German Hindenburg Kaserne. These sentries wore caps with black bands and metal-rimmed visors, black collar patches and silver tank insignia on their epaulets.

9. From 10 to 12 light artillery pieces, all of the same type, attached to trucks, were seen in the eastern section of the former German Hindenburg Kaserne, which was occupied by Polish troops. From a distance the artillery pieces looked like AT guns. Soldiers and sentries wore summer uniforms with open collars, no shirts, caps with red bands and red pentagonal collar patches. (7)

25X1

10. [REDACTED] the former German Woyrsch Kaserne, between ul. Kapieliskowa and ul. Koszarowa in the Karlowitz borough, housed Polish Infantry Officers' School No 1. A high brick wall on ul. Kapieliskowa blocked the view of the interior of this installation. (8)

11. The former German barracks installation on ul. Obernicka, north of the KBW barracks, was occupied by Polish soldiers who wore tank uniforms. In August 1951, the installation was only lightly occupied. No armored vehicles were

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seen there. During a railroad trip from Breslau to Poznan (P 53/X 26) on 3 August, source learned from six soldiers stationed in this barracks installation that their unit had been transferred to the Biedrusko (P 53/X 27) troop training grounds in early June 1951.

25X1

12. The former German barracks installation, north of the Polish tank barracks in the Rozanka borough, was occupied by a Polish engineer unit. The sentry at the gate wore a khaki uniform with red pentagonal collar patches and a cap with a red band. (10)
13. Adjoining the above mentioned engineer installation, was another large barracks installation consisting of 8 to 10 buildings and quartering a Polish engineer officer school. Soldiers seen there wore a khaki tunic, black trousers with broad red pipings and, on the lower parts of both sleeves were 1 to 3 narrow silver stripes and the same number of buttons. The white bordered epaulets had the intertwined silver letters SO and on their collar patches was a silver device with an oak leaf and a sword. Two iron bridge structures used for training purposes were seen in the barracks yard. One of these structures consisted of sections of a suspension bridge with arches and the other was part of a military bridge without arches, resting on brick foundations about 1 meter high. The military bridge structure was probably former German engineer equipment. The bridge was painted light blue, [ ] believed had been painted over the grey paint used by the Germans. (11) About 50 soldiers from the Polish engineer unit were engaged in constructing low wooden barracks buildings, on solid foundations, across the street from the engineer officer school. The soldiers were seen marching from the barracks installation to the construction site on which allotment gardens had formerly been located.
14. Buildings in the Buergerwerder borough housed a veterinary hospital and the Breslau Voivode Committee of the Polish Workers Party. (12)
15. The former Kuerassier Kaserne on the south side of Benedykta Polaka, was occupied by Polish motor transport troops. Vehicles observed in the yard included 25 American semi-trailers and about 200 two-axle trucks with dual wheels at the rear and with docks at the rear. The sentry at the entrance on ul. Adama Prochnicka and soldiers seen there wore caps with a red band and red pentagonal collar patches. In the western section of this Kaserne was a Polish military motor vehicle repair shop with its entrance on ul. Benedykta Polaka. The sentry there wore red service color. Soldiers seen in the installation wore fatigues and oily coveralls in various colors, including grey and blue. Only trucks and sedans were seen there. (13)
16. The Hq 4th Military District (DOW 4) was located in buildings No 122 through 128 on the east side of ul. Adama Prochnicka, between ul. Sztabowa and ul. Pretficza. Of the two entrances on ul. Adama Prochnicka, only the southern entrance was open. The sentry there wore red service color. There was another entrance, closed by an iron gate, on ul. Pretficza. A sergeant from the former Kuerassier Kaserne said that a general, [ ] observed entering the installation, was a Soviet officer who served with the DOW. (14)
- 25X1 [ ] 17. Prior to June 1951, a fuel depot was located near the harbor of the Oder canal on the south side of ul. Kwidzyska. It was assigned to the Central Petroleum Products Agency until the summer of 1950 when it was taken over by Polish military authorities. The depot consisted of 5 camouflage-painted fuel tanks, about 10 meters high, which looked like small gasometers (sic);

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25X1

1 engine house containing pump installations; 1 administration building; and 1 guard house. In April 1951, the containers were filled. Fuel was shipped to the installation, from the direction of Upper Silesia, by water, and was picked up there by Polish and Soviet trucks. (15)

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18. [redacted] German skilled workers who were allotted billets in Massewitz (P 52/C 42) in the spring of 1951 were employed in a Soviet-controlled plant, which manufactured fuses and weapons. In 1950, component parts of 76.2-mm AT guns were being assembled, painted and adjusted there. [redacted]

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[redacted] the finished guns were shipped by rail toward Hirschberg (O 51/G 68). [redacted] a parking lot for about 200 damaged tanks of various types was located at an undetermined point between the Kosel and Massewitz boroughs. Some of the tanks were to be reclaimed and some were to be dismantled. (16)

25X1

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19. Prior to early 1951, the former 11th Inf Regt Kaserne on ul. Podwale Swidnickie was occupied by the military construction agency. [redacted] a section of the agency was ordered to construct a new artillery range and drill ground near Hirschberg.

25X1

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20. Prior to early May 1951, a parking lot for Soviet and Polish tanks was located on the approach road to the autobahn in the southwest section of the city. The tanks were camouflaged with branches. Tank trucks were seen between the tanks. [redacted] saw tanks driving on the embankments of the autobahn.

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21. Prior to November 1950, [redacted] observed Polish officers and soldiers at No 21 or 22 ul. Podwale Olawskie, a heavily damaged street. Every day the sedan of a Polish general, [redacted] was parked in front of this house. Frequently another Polish general was also seen there. One of the generals wore two stars and the other wore one star on their epaulets. [redacted] the offices of a Polish headquarters were located in this five-story building.

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22. [redacted] Polish tank troops were stationed in Breslau. In 1950, [redacted] saw four Polish tanks moving north on ul. Trzebnicka. It was commonly known among the youths of Breslau that a Polish officer school was located in the Karlowitz borough. [redacted] many older students of the government engineer school attended the Polish officer school between March and May 1951.

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Comments.

(1) For location sketch of the installations mentioned in this report, see Annex. This sketch is based on information from the first source. According to available information, there were actually three German barracks installations in the area identified in the Annex as the Hindenburg Kaserne (items 5, 6 and 28). The Hindenburg Kaserne was located only in the western section of the area identified as item 5 of the Annex. The eastern section of this area was occupied by the Tauentzien Kaserne. The former Grenadier Kaserne was located in the area between the railroad line and ul. Sotysowicka, items 28 and 6 of the Annex.

(2) This is the first report to mention Soviet supply installations in the Hundsfield borough. To date, only a hutment, 400 meters northeast of the Warsaw Bridge on the road to Hundsfield, has been known to be a Soviet supply base. It is possible that this base was transferred to Hundsfield. See [redacted]

25X1

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(3) The repair shop in Pohlenowitz borough has been mentioned in numerous PW reports. It is probably Motor Vehicle Repair Plant No 65 or 56 which is

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directly assigned to the Hq Northern Group of Forces in Liegnitz.

- (4) This is probably the barracks installation of the former German 37th AAA Regt. [redacted] as early as September 1950 and June 1951, mentioned a barracks installation on the southwestern perimeter of Breslau which was allegedly occupied by Soviet units. At that time it was believed that this barracks installation might be the former Kuerassier Kaserne. [redacted] However, according to items 51 and 52 of the legend, it appears that the Kuerassier Kaserne is occupied by Polish units. The reference report also mentioned motor vehicle [redacted] as being observed in this barracks installation. The rocket launcher unit mentioned in the present report is probably directly assigned to the Northern Group of Forces.

- (5) [redacted] a Soviet clothing depot, which allegedly was directly assigned to the group headquarters in Liegnitz, was transferred from Thorun to Breslau-Opperau after 1947. It is believed that it now occupies item No 17 and 18. In addition to it, Soviet motor transport units seem to be quartered there.

- (6) In the summer of 1950, a resettler reported a Soviet-occupied barracks installation, located on the west bank of the Oder River in the Kosel borough. The personnel of this installation worked in an underground ammunition depot there.

- (7) This installation is not part of the Hindenburg Kaserne but of the former Grenadier Kaserne.

- (8) An infantry officer school is known to be located in Breslau-Karlowitz from previous information and press reports.

- (9) Either this barracks installation, or the one occupied by KBW units, is the former German Panzerjaeger Kaserne where numerous sheds and garages existed before the war.

- (10) A German infantry battalion was quartered in this barracks installation prior to the war.

- (11) This is the former Scharnhorst Kaserne. The information confirms an engineer officer school in Breslau. [redacted]

- (12) Several old barracks installations were located in the Buergerwerder borough. Various offices, the military post hospital, a medical battalion and a division headquarters were located in them prior to the war.

- (13) Probably a motor transport battalion. Thus the information confirms the 4th Motor Trans Bn until August 1951. [redacted] the 4th Motor Trans Bn was subordinate to the 4th MD in Breslau. The information regarding the motor vehicle repair shop confirms a report of 1947, according to which, each MD maintained a repair shop for military motor vehicles.

- (14) The Hq VIII Army Corps was located in this building prior to the war.

- (15) This is the harbor of the former Rhenania Ossag Firm.

- (16) [redacted] a Soviet repair shop for weapons assigned to the group headquarters in Liegnitz is located in the former Ardelt Plant in Breslau-Masselwitz.

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Legend:

1. Soviet bakeries and butcher shops supplying the Soviet military post of Breslau.
2. Quarters for employees of the Soviet supply installations.
3. Sixteen three-story barracks buildings of hollow brick (Hohlziegel) under construction. Each barracks building was about 40 x 12 meters.
4. Some former German, low wooden barracks buildings, probably quartering the Soviet guard personnel for the supply installations in Hundsfield.
5. Western section of the former Hindenburg Kaserne, occupied by Soviet troops.
6. A barracks building, surrounded by a high board fence, in the northwest corner of the eastern section of the former Hindenburg Kaserne occupied by Soviet soldiers.
7. Two buildings housing a Soviet military office. Numerous thick rubber cables led from these two houses to the Hindenburg Kaserne.
8. Several villas occupied by dependents of Soviet officers from the Hindenburg Kaserne.
9. Soviet gardens.
10. Large Soviet workshops including forges and carpentry shops, in an area about 300 x 400 meters. German employees were quartered in the dwelling houses on the other side of ul. Kaminskiego. A Soviet office was located in a three-story building just south of the railroad line on the east side of ul. Kaminskiego.
11. A large target range. Soviet and Polish soldiers held firing practices there with rifles and machine guns, on different days and at different times.
12. A large drill ground. Soviet and Polish units drilled separately. Only infantry combat training was observed.
13. Former German barracks installation, occupied by Soviet troops. Five barracks buildings and several large sheds were noticed there and one long shed was located on the south side of ul. Zwycieska.
14. Four dwellings for dependents of Soviet officers from the above mentioned barracks installation.
15. A sizable Soviet-occupied area, surrounded by a mesh-wire fence. Low temporary buildings in the southeastern portion of this area quartered Soviet soldiers.
16. Two two-story dwellings and some low wooden barracks buildings occupied by soldiers.
17. About 40 low wooden temporary buildings, presumably used as warehouses. Several horse-drawn vehicles were seen there. Bales of civilian cloth were unloaded from these vehicles and carried into the low wooden buildings.
18. An installation consisting of low temporary buildings, of which a few were used as warehouses. Most of the buildings and the fence were damaged. Source was unable to determine whether this was a Soviet or a Polish installation.

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19. Six buildings of the former German Pionier Kaserne, occupied by Soviet troops and military agencies. The word Cinema was written in Cyrillic letters above the entrance of one building.
20. Large workshops surrounded by a high board fence. Sounds of activity were heard and acquaintances of source said that underground installations, where ammunition was loaded, were located there.
21. A Soviet athletic field. Propaganda inscriptions such as "Play football and you will stay healthy", were seen there.
22. A large dwelling housing Soviet offices on the 2d, 3rd and 4th floors and a store and a barber's shop on the ground floor.
23. Four large dwellings and three villas, occupied by Soviet dependents. Two or three rubber cables led from one of the villas and from the building described in item 22 to the former Pionier Kaserne, item 19.
24. Former German aircraft plant. According to local residents, engines of all types were built here. The plant was heavily guarded by KBW personnel.
25. Quarters of the KBW personnel.
26. Gas works of the Hundsfield borough.
27. A large Polish supply depot. Trucks, sedans and drums containing fuel, most of them stored in the open, were seen there. Polish tank cars were filled at this depot. Construction material was also stored there. Two large low wooden barracks buildings were under construction in the area where there were still many old, German, low barracks buildings.
28. The eastern section of the former German Hindenburg Kaserne, occupied by Polish troops.
29. Six low wooden barracks buildings on solid foundations, being constructed by Polish tank troops. At the time of observation, the fence of the installation was under construction.
30. A large old villa used by an ecclesiastical sect.
31. The former German Woyrsch Kaserne. This installation allegedly housed Polish Infantry Officers' School No 1.
32. A school for party functionaries of the Voivode district located in the former seminary.
33. Barracks installation occupied by KBW units. It consisted of about five barracks buildings which did not appear to be heavily occupied, although numerous KBW soldiers were seen in the streets of Breslau and no other KBW quarters were noticed.
34. From 8 to 10 well preserved buildings of another former German barracks installation, occupied by Polish soldiers who wore tank uniforms.
35. Former German barracks installation, occupied by a Polish engineer unit. Four buildings with red brick roofs, which were separated from the tank troops barracks were noticed. Crossed axes were painted on the wings of the barracks gate.

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ANNEX TO

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36. A large barracks installation consisting of 8 to 10 buildings and quartering a Polish engineer officer school.
37. Newly constructed low barracks buildings.
38. An engineer training site. Old German sheds and a roofed parking lot, as well as trenches and a wooden bridge, were seen there. Small groups of soldiers commanded by an officer were observed receiving theoretical training in this area.
39. Drill grounds for the units quartered in the barracks installations west of ul. Obornicka.
40. About 25 solidly built, low brick buildings with windows having white sashes. The buildings, the garages and repair shops appeared to be new. A spur track from the north led to the installation. An inscription in Polish "Let the Soviet Motorized Troops be an Example to You" was seen on the inner side of the brick wall surrounding the installation. There was heavy vehicular traffic in the barracks area and many trucks and jeeps were parked near the repair shops and garages. No heavy weapons were seen there. The sentry wore his tunic open, a cap with a red band and red pentagonal collar patches. Low wooden buildings on solid foundations, gutted by fire, were located west of the installation.
41. Newly constructed Polish military buildings. Four two-story buildings, each about 25 x 14 meters, house No 34, and other houses on the south side of ul. Walbrzyska were being reconstructed by Polish military labor details and civilian workers. Two large newly constructed garages, guarded by sentries with red service color, were also located there.
42. Stables of the veterinary hospital of the Polish military district headquarters. The gateway was on ul. Jagielly. The sentry seen there wore red service color.
43. Offices of the veterinary hospital.
44. Partially destroyed area which belonged to the veterinary hospital. An athletic field was located in about the center of this area.
45. A five-story newly constructed building, housing the Breslau Voivode Committee of the Polish Workers Party.
46. The Breslau city headquarters of the Militia, located in an old four-story dwelling.
47. An old German barracks installation, gutted by fire.
48. Classrooms of the Polish engineer officer school from Rosenthal housed in the former Hoffmanns Tanzsaale restaurant.
49. Former German low barracks buildings quartering engineer officer candidates. Polish soldiers wearing the same uniforms as soldiers observed with the engineer officer school in Rosenthal were seen there.
50. Polish engineer training grounds. Two low brick buildings, each about 50 meters long, and a small temporary guard house were located there. The low brick buildings served as store rooms for small equipment and also probably quartered a few soldiers. Pontoons and bridge building equipment were seen on the bank of the Oder River. Soldiers were observed practicing bridge construction in the northern portion of the area.

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51. The former Kuerassier Kaserne, occupied by Polish motor transport troops. The barracks yard had a concrete surface. Large garages were located on the west and south sides of the billeting area.
  - a. Building gutted by fire.
  - b. Building gutted by fire.
  - c. Occupied building.
  - d. Occupied building.
  - e. Occupied building.
52. The Wojskowe Zaklady Motoryzacyjne No 4, a Polish military motor vehicle repair shop.
53. Hq 4th Military District (DOW 4).
54. Military court of the military district and office of the judge advocate.
55. Building quartering the guard unit of the military district headquarters. The sentries for the entire district were assigned from this headquarters.
56. Former 11th Inf Regt Kaserne. No troops were quartered here. It housed the financial administration of the military construction agency. The entrance of the installation was on ul. Sadowa.
57. The district court, the court of appeal, and a military district court (Rejonowy Sad Wojskowe).
58. The Voivode headquarters of the state security service, located in the former police headquarters. Sentries seen there wore KBW uniforms. They belonged to an UB guard company, the existence of which was generally known in the city.
59. A sign identified this building as the Voivode Militia headquarters.
60. Building housing the city committee of the Polish Workers Party (Komitet Miejski P.Z.P.A.). The main entrance was on Podwale Swidnickie.
61. The military district headquarters of the city of Breslau, located between the former Landeshaus and the former Vier Jahreszeiten Hotel. The sentry seen there wore red service color.
62. Fuel depot.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT #

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Polish-occupied Germany

DATE DISTR. 7 August 1952

SUBJECT Soviet and Polish Troops in Breslau

NO. OF PAGES 5

PLACE 25X1

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 1  
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF  
INFO.

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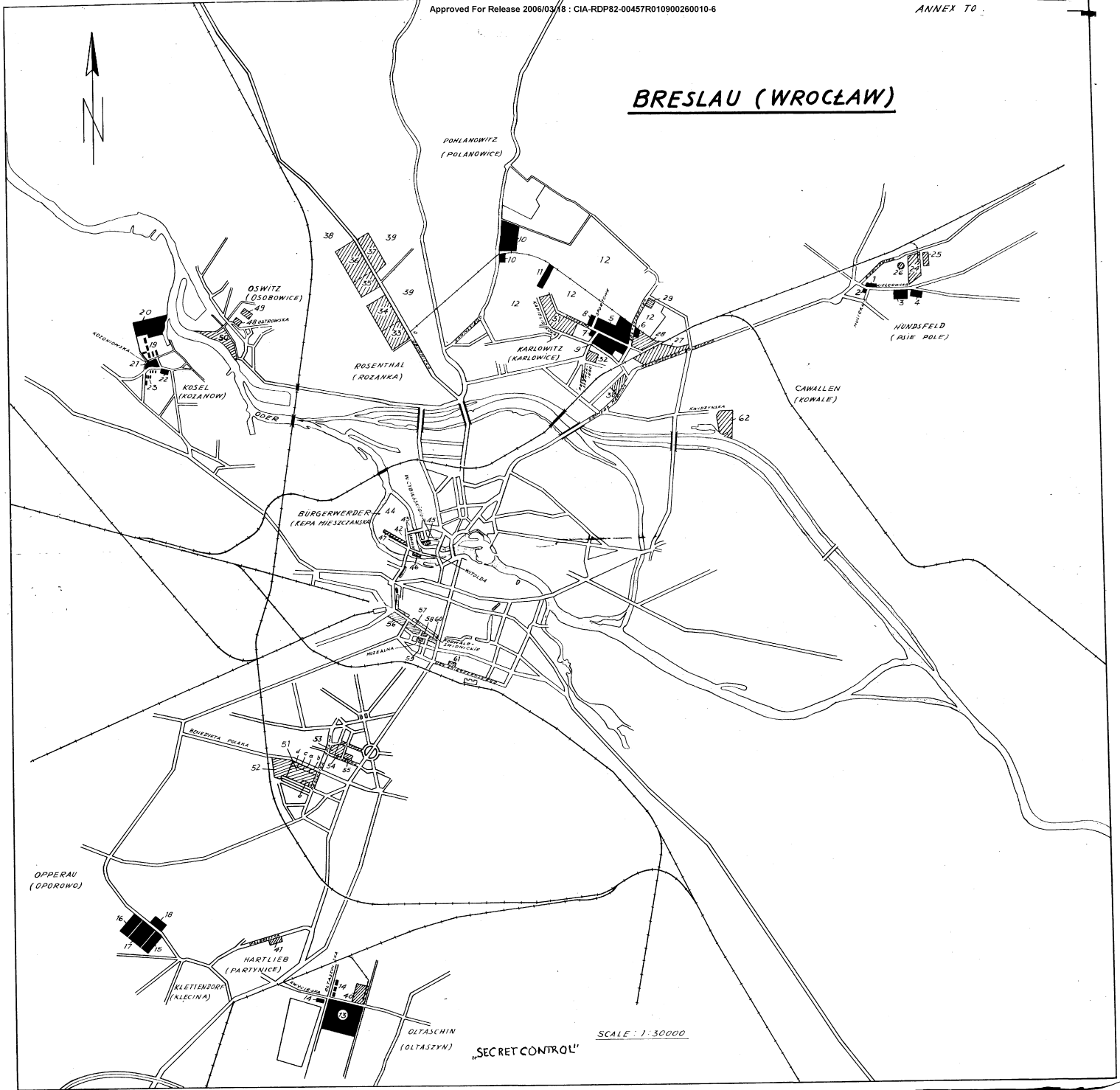
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approximately 15 April 1952, which was inadvertently omitted.

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